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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PAT. & T.M. OFFICE
BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte RANDHIR P.S. THAKUR, RAVI IYER and HOWARD RHODES

Appeal No. 2003-2155
Application 09/654,093

ON BRIEF

Before OWENS, WALTZ and LIEBERMAN, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

OWENS, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION ON APPEAL

This appeal is from the final rejection of claims 52-64, which are all of the claims pending in the application.

THE INVENTION

The appellants claim methods for processing a semiconductor device. Claim 52 is illustrative:

52. A method of processing a semiconductor device,
comprising:

depositing a dielectric layer over a semiconductor substrate, said substrate comprising a plurality of electrically conductive regions and an electrically insulative region therebetween;

allowing electrically chargeable particles to occur in said dielectric layer;

allowing some diffusion of said electrically chargeable particles; and

preventing at least some of said electrically chargeable particles from reaching said substrate.

THE REFERENCES

Van Der Scheer et al. (Van Der Scheer)	4,976,856	Dec. 11, 1990
Boland et al. (Boland)	5,084,407	Jan. 28, 1992
Ghezzi et al. (Ghezzi)	5,132,239	Jul. 21, 1992
Doan et al. (Doan)	5,372,974	Dec. 13, 1994
Ying	5,384,288	Jan. 24, 1995
Cunningham et al. (Cunningham)	5,468,689	Nov. 21, 1995

THE REJECTIONS

Claim 60 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as follows: claim 52 over Doan in view of Boland;

claims 53-57 over Doan in view of Cunningham; claims 58 and 59 over Doan in view of Cunningham and Ying; claims 60, 61, 63 and 64 over Doan in view of Ghezzi; and claim 62 over Doan in view of Ghezzi and Van Der Scheer.

OPINION

We affirm the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of claim 52 over Doan in view of Boland, claims 53-57 over Doan in view of Cunningham, and claims 58 and 59 over Doan in view of Cunningham and Ying. We reverse the rejections of claims 60, 61, 63 and 64 over Doan in view of Ghezzi, and claim 62 over Doan in view of Ghezzi and Van Der Scheer.

The appellants state that with respect to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, claims 60-64 stand or fall separately and claims 52-59 stand or fall in the following groups: 1) claim 52, 2) claims 53-57, and 3) claims 58 and 59 (brief, page 3).¹ We therefore limit our discussion of the rejections of claims 52-59 to claim 52 and one claim in each of the other groups, i.e., claims 53 and 59. See *In re Ochiai*, 71 F.3d 1565, 1566 n.2,

¹ Citations herein to the brief are to the second brief (filed November 25, 2002). Because the arguments in the reply brief are similar to those in the brief, we limit our discussion to the brief.

Appeal No. 2003-2155
Application 09/654,093

37 USPQ2d 1127, 1129 n.2 (Fed. Cir. 1995); 37 CFR
§ 1.192(c)(7)(1997).

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

When a word of degree such as "substantially" is used in a claim, the specification must provide some standard for measuring that degree such that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand what is claimed when the claim is read in light of the specification. See *Seattle Box Co. v. Industrial Crating & Packing, Inc.*, 731 F.2d 818, 826, 221 USPQ 568, 573-74 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

The appellants' figure 1 provides some standard for measuring the degree encompassed by "generally laterally coextensive" with respect to lead 16 and insulating region 14. The appellants' disclosure, however, provides no standard for measuring the degree encompassed by "generally insulative material" and "generally conductive material".

The appellants' specification does not define "generally". Hence, we give this term its ordinary meaning, see *Allen Engineering Corp. v. Bartell Industries Inc.*, 299 F.3d 1336, 1344, 63 USPQ2d 1769, 1772 (Fed. Cir. 2002), which is: "1. with respect to the larger part, or for the most part: a claim generally recognized. 2. usually; commonly; ordinarily: he

generally comes at noon. 3. without reference to particular persons or things: *generally speaking.*"² It is not clear what would be meant by the appellants' insulative material and conductive element being insulative or conductive with respect to the larger part or for the most part. If "generally" means that the appellants' insulative material and conductive element are usually, commonly or ordinarily insulative or conductive, then it is not clear whether the claim requires the material to be insulative or the element to be conductive. If generally means "without reference to particular persons or things", it is not clear how "generally" limits "insulative material" or "conductive element".

The appellants argue that the meaning of "generally" with respect to the insulative material set forth in their amendment and response filed January 9, 2002 (paper no. 9, page 3) still applies (brief, page 4). That meaning is that the insulative material is not an ideal or perfect insulator. Such nonideality is encompassed by the term "insulating material". It is not clear how "generally" broadens that term.

² *The American College Dictionary* 505 (Random House 1970).

The appellants argue that "generally conductive element" acknowledges the wide variance in conductivity exhibited by various materials (amendment and response filed January 9, 2002, page 3). This argument is not convincing because the term "conductive" encompasses that variation in conductivity. It is not clear from the appellants' disclosure to what extent "generally" broadens that term.

The appellants argue that "'generally insulative material' and 'generally conductive element' include within their scope materials with varying degrees of insulation/conductivity" (brief, page 9). This argument is not well taken because the appellants' disclosure does not indicate the scope of variation encompassed by the term "generally". Moreover, this meaning of "generally" with respect to the insulating material is different than the meaning argued above, i.e., that "generally" indicates deviation from ideality. This inconsistency in the appellants' definitions further indicates the lack of clarity in the term "generally insulative material".

The appellants argue that their specification provides non-limiting embodiments (brief, page 9; amendment and response filed January 9, 2002, page 3). The appellants' disclosure of four exemplary insulative materials (specification, page 5,

lines 24-25), however, does not indicate the degree encompassed by "generally insulative material". Because there are no examples of conductive elements in the specification, there clearly is no indication of the scope encompassed by "generally conductive element".

The appellants argue that a conductor is a material which conducts electricity with ease, and that "generally" is no less definite than "easily" (amendment and response filed January 9, 2002, page 3). This argument is not persuasive because it is unsupported by evidence. Arguments of counsel cannot take the place of evidence. See *In re De Blauwe*, 736 F.2d 699, 705, 222 USPQ 191, 196 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

The appellants argue that because U.S. 5,087,589 to Chapman includes "generally insulative" in claims 20 and 21, and "generally conductive" in claim 21, one of ordinary skill in the art would know the meaning of those terms in the appellants' claim 60 (brief, pages 6-7). This argument is not well taken because Chapman provides in his specification a standard for measuring the degree encompassed by those terms (col. 8, line 67 - col. 9, line 7; col. 10, lines 60-66), whereas the appellants' specification does not provide such a standard.

For the above reasons we conclude that the appellants' claim 60 is indefinite within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 52

Doan discloses a method for processing a semiconductor device (col. 1, lines 6-8), comprising depositing, sequentially, on a semiconductor substrate, a planarization layer (30), a barrier film (40), and a second layer (50) (col. 2, lines 25-44). The barrier film can be an oxide or a nitride (col. 4, lines 17-20), which are among the appellants' barrier layers (specification, page 9, lines 24-33). The second layer can be borophosphosilicate glass (BPSG), which is the appellants' disclosed dielectric layer material (specification, page 7, lines 16-21), and can be tetraethylorthosilicate (TEOS)-based silicate glass (col. 4, lines 38-43). The device then is heated to at least 700°C to reflow the planarization layer and second layer (col. 4, lines 44-51). During this heating the barrier film retains its structural integrity (col. 4, lines 51-53).

The appellants acknowledge the following in their specification:³

It is well known in the art of semiconductor fabrication that dielectric layers formed from organic sources can have shifts in their threshold voltage due to impurities in the dielectric material. The impurities are present in the layer because of the organic processes, such as ozone-TEOS based chemistry, which are used to form the material of the dielectric layer.

It is also known for the impurities in the dielectric layer to diffuse and collect at interfaces close to the substrate during high temperature processing steps performed after deposition of dielectric material formed with organometallic precursors. This diffusion can seriously degrade integrated circuit operation. [page 2, lines 6-20]

* * *

[I]t is known to form the BPSG material of the dielectric layer 20 by reacting ozone with organic precursors such as $(C_2H_5O)_4Si$ (TEOS)[,] triethylphosphate (TEPO) and triethylborane (TEB) in order to provide the required boron, phosphorous, and silicon atoms. Each of these molecules is an organic molecule containing carbon atoms. The contamination due to the carbon of the organic molecules remains in the BPSG dielectric layer 20 after the reactions forming the BPSG material and cause impurities in the BPSG layer 20. [page 7, lines 16-26]

A high temperature processing step used by the appellants which causes impurity diffusion is the step of reflowing the dielectric

³It is axiomatic that our consideration of the prior art must, of necessity, include consideration of the admitted prior art. See *In re Hedges*, 783 F.2d 1038, 1039-40, 228 USPQ 685, 686 (Fed. Cir. 1986); *In re Davis*, 305 F.2d 501, 503, 134 USPQ 256, 258 (CCPA 1962).

layer at 750-1050°C (specification, page 9, lines 4-19). The appellants state that their barrier layer blocks diffusion during the reflow step and/or any other high temperature processing steps (specification, page 9, lines 19-23).

Doan is silent as to the reagents used to form the BPSG. Consequently, one of ordinary skill in the art would have used reagents which were known in the art to be suitable for this purpose such as the above-mentioned TEOS, TEPO and TEB.

The appellants acknowledge in the above-quoted portion of their specification that BPSG formed from TEOS, TEPO and TEB contains carbon as an impurity from each of these reagents, and the appellants disclose that when their dielectric layer is reflowed at 750-1050°C, the impurities in the dielectric layer may diffuse (specification, page 9, lines 4-19). Because Doan's silicate layer reflow temperatures include temperatures above 700°C, it reasonably appears that the impurities (called "electrically chargeable particles" in the appellants' claim 52) in Doan's BPSG or TEOS-based silicate glass dielectric layer, like those in the appellants' dielectric layer, diffuse during the reflow. Because Doan's oxide and nitride barrier layers are made of the same material as the appellants' oxide and nitride barrier layers, it reasonably appears that Doan's barrier layer,

like that of the appellants, prevents the diffusing impurities, to at least some extent, from reaching the substrate.

Doan does not disclose a substrate comprising a plurality of electrically conductive regions and an electrically insulative region therebetween. The examiner argues that in order to provide active areas needed for a working semiconductor surface in Doan, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been led to use, as Doan's semiconductor substrate, a semiconductor substrate such as that shown in Boland's figure 2 having at its surface a plurality of conductive regions (22) with an electrically insulative region (12) therebetween (answer, pages 17-18). There is no dispute as to whether one of ordinary skill in the art would have desired, in Doan's device, active semiconductor surface areas such as those in figure 2 of Boland.

The appellants argue that "one of ordinary skill in the art seeking to planarize layers subsequently provided over Boland's dielectric island/active area surface would turn once again to the CMP [chemical mechanical planarization] method touted by Boland" (brief, page 14). The relevant issue is whether the applied prior art would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to use in Doan's device the semiconductor surface in Boland's figure 2. The appellants have not established that CMP would

provide the reduction in the effects of buckling, also referred to as cracking or wrinkling, which is desired by Doan and is provided by his method (col. 2, lines 21-25). Hence, we are not convinced that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have applied Doan's method to a semiconductor wafer having the working surface shown in figure 2 of Boland.

The appellants argue that "the mechanical aspects of Boland's CMP may very well expose at least one of Doan's layers to stresses having a result similar to one that Doan seeks to avoid" (brief, page 14). The appellants, however, provide no evidence in support of this argument. Arguments of counsel cannot take the place of evidence. See *De Blauwe*, 736 F.2d at 705, 222 USPQ at 196; *In re Payne*, 606 F.2d 303, 315, 203 USPQ 245, 256 (CCPA 1979); *In re Greenfield*, 571 F.2d 1185, 1189, 197 USPQ 227, 230 (CCPA 1978); *In re Pearson*, 494 F.2d 1399, 1405, 181 USPQ 641, 646 (CCPA 1974). Moreover, the appellants have provided no evidence that any such stresses would not be overcome by Doan's method for preventing buckling of layers.

The appellants point out that Doan does not mention impurity diffusion, and argue that 1) Doan's TEOS-based silicate glass second layer cannot be assumed to inherently have that impurity diffusion and 2) Doan's oxide or nitride barrier layer cannot be

assumed, merely because Doan discloses these layers structurally, to at least partially prevent the diffused impurities from reaching the substrate (brief, pages 11-13). Doan, however, does not merely disclose a second layer which can be BPSG or a TEOS-based silicate glass, and a barrier layer which can be an oxide or a nitride. Doan also discloses that the device including these layers is heated to at least 700°C sufficiently that the second layer reflows while the barrier layer maintains its structural integrity (col. 4, lines 45-53). Because, as acknowledged by the appellants in the above-quoted portion of their specification, BPSG made using the disclosed known organic reagents contains impurities which may diffuse when the layer is reflowed at 750-1050°C (specification, page 2, lines 6-20 and page 9, lines 6-19), it reasonably appears that the impurities in Doan's BPSG second layer made using those known organic reagents, and the impurities in Doan's TEOS-based silicate glass,⁴ likewise may diffuse when the layer is heated to a temperature of at least 700°C sufficient to reflow the layer. See *In re Spada*, 911 F.2d 705, 708, 15 USPQ2d 1655, 1657-58 (Fed. Cir. 1990) ("While Spada

⁴ One of the organic reagents acknowledged in the above-quoted portion of the appellants' specification to be known in the art is TEOS.

criticizes the usage of the word 'appear', we think that it was reasonable for the PTO to infer that the polymerization by both Smith and Spada of identical monomers, employing the same or similar polymerization techniques, would produce polymers having the identical composition.") Also, because Doan's oxide or nitride barrier layer has the same composition as the appellants' oxide or nitride barrier layer, it reasonably appears that it has the property recited in the appellants' claim 52 of preventing at least some of the impurities from reaching the substrate. See *In re Papesch*, 315 F.2d 381, 391, 137 USPQ 43, 51 (CCPA 1963) ("From the standpoint of patent law, a compound and all of its properties are inseparable; they are one and the same thing.") "[W]hen the PTO shows sound basis for believing that the products of the applicant and the prior art are the same, the applicant has the burden of showing that they are not." See *Spada*, 911 F.2d at 708, 15 USPQ2d at 1658. Whether a rejection is under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or § 103, when the appellants' product and that of the prior art appear to be identical or substantially identical, the burden shifts to the appellants to provide evidence that the prior art product does not necessarily or inherently possess the relied-upon characteristics of the appellants' claimed product. See *In re Fitzgerald*, 619 F.2d 67,

70, 205 USPQ 594, 596 (CCPA 1980); *In re Best*, 562 F.2d 1252, 1255, 195 USPQ 430, 433-34 (CCPA 1977); *In re Fessmann*, 489 F.2d 742, 745, 180 USPQ 324, 326 (CCPA 1974). The reason is that the Patent and Trademark Office is not able to manufacture and compare products. See *Best*, 562 F.2d at 1255, 195 USPQ at 434; *In re Brown*, 459 F.2d 531, 535, 173 USPQ 685, 688 (CCPA 1972). The appellants have not carried that burden.

For the above reasons we conclude that a *prima facie* case of obviousness of the method claimed in the appellants' claim 52 has been established and has not been effectively rebutted by the appellants. Accordingly, we affirm the rejection of that claim.

Claim 53

Doan discloses a method for processing a semiconductor device, comprising forming, sequentially, a planarization layer (30), a barrier layer (40), and a BPSG or TEOS-based silicate glass dielectric layer (50), on a substrate, and then heating the device to reflow the planarization layer and the dielectric layer while the barrier layer maintains its structural integrity (col. 2, lines 21-50; col. 3, lines 50-59; col. 4, lines 17-53). As discussed above regarding the rejection of claim 52, it reasonably appears that 1) during the reflow step, impurities, called electrically chargeable particles in the

appellants' claim 53, deposit in the dielectric layer and diffuse within that layer, and 2) the barrier layer prevents at least some of the impurities from reaching the substrate. The appellants acknowledge that carbon is an impurity from TEOS and from the TEPO and TEB used together with TEOS to form BPSG (specification, page 7, lines 3-5 and 16-29). Carbon apparently is what the appellants refer to in their claim 53 as an organic component of the organic precursor.

Doan is silent as to the precursor used to form the oxide or nitride barrier layer. One of ordinary skill in the art, therefore, would have used any precursor known in the semiconductor art to be suitable for making oxide or nitride layers. Such precursors for making silicon nitride include silane and nitrogen as taught by Cunningham (abstract).

The appellants argue that the examiner, in focusing upon only the portion of Cunningham pertaining to formation of a silicon nitride film, improperly relies upon guidance from the appellants' specification (brief, page 18). This argument is not well taken because the use of silane and nitrogen-containing and oxygen-containing precursors for making silicon nitride and silicon oxide films was very well known to those of ordinary skill in the semiconductor art at the time of the appellants'

invention.⁵ Hence, regardless of Cunningham's other disclosure, Cunningham's disclosure pertaining to the formation of a silicon nitride barrier layer would have fairly suggested, to one of ordinary skill in the art, silane and nitrogen as the precursors for forming Doan's silicon nitride barrier layer.

We therefore affirm the rejection of claim 53 and claims 54-57 that stand or fall therewith.

Claim 59

Doan discloses a method for forming a circuit device, comprising providing a semiconductor substrate, layering a barrier on the substrate, layering a dielectric on the barrier, and then heating the device to at least 700°C to reflow the dielectric layer while the barrier layer maintains its structural integrity (col. 2, lines 21-50; col. 3, lines 50-59; col. 4, lines 17-53). As discussed above regarding the rejection of claim 52, Doan's BPSG and TEOS-based silicate glass are carbon-containing dielectrics. As for the requirement that the barrier is carbon free, Doan does not disclose that his nitride and oxide barrier films contain carbon (col. 4, lines 17-19). Moreover, as

⁵ See, e.g., 10 *Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology* 266-67 (John Wiley & Sons, 3rd ed. 1980) and 13 *Kirk Othmer* at 639-640 (1981), copies of which are provided to the appellants with this decision.

discussed above with respect to claim 53, the applied prior art would have fairly suggested, to one of ordinary skill in the art, making Doan's barrier film from a non-organic precursor.

Doan does not disclose that "at least 700°C" includes 750°C, and is silent as to the reflow time. However, because the material reflowed can be BPSG, which is the appellants' disclosed dielectric layer material (specification, page 7, lines 16-20; page 9, lines 4-10), it reasonably appears that the workable reflow temperatures of at least 700°C and reflow times, determined by one of ordinary skill in the art through no more than routine experimentation, would include those used by the appellants, i.e., temperatures including 750°C and times including 5 minutes. See *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955). Moreover, Ying teaches that BPSG can be reflowed at 700-900°C for approximately 5-120 minutes (col. 4, lines 17-20). This teaching would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to use, as Doan's temperature of at least 700°C, any temperature in the 700-900°C range, including 750°C, and to use any reflow time in the range of approximately 5-120 minutes.

The appellants argue that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have combined the teachings of Doan and Ying because Doan desires to reduce the stress resulting from buckling,

Appeal No. 2003-2155
Application 09/654,093

whereas Ying reflows his BPSG in an active ambient to create internal stress which aids in planarization (col. 4, lines 9-13) (brief, pages 20-23). Ying, however, does not indicate that the required reflow temperature and time depend on the ambient. Hence, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been led by Doan and Ying to use Ying's reflow temperatures and times, in the absence of the stress-forming active ambient, when reflowing Doan's BPSG.

The appellants argue that Ying teaches against high temperatures, particularly temperatures above 900°C, because they cause degradation of the underlying semiconductor device (brief, page 21). This teaching by Ying would have fairly suggested, to one of ordinary skill in the art, using, as Doan's BPSG reflow temperature of at least 700°C, any temperature within the 700-900°C range, including temperatures of 750-900°C which are within the scope of the appellants' claim 59, in order to avoid degrading the underlying semiconductor device.

For the above reasons we affirm the rejection of claim 59 and claim 58 that stands or falls therewith.

Claims 60-64

We need to address only claim 60, which is the sole independent claim among claims 60-64.⁶

The appellants' claim 60 requires that a generally conductive element is generally laterally coextensive with an intervening insulating region.

As discussed above regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, the terms "generally insulative material" and "generally conductive element" render the appellants' claim 60 indefinite. However, regardless of the meaning of those terms, because the appellants' figure 1 provides some standard for measuring the degree encompassed by "generally laterally coextensive", we are able to determine whether the examiner has established a *prima facie* case of obviousness of a substrate processing method including this limitation. In the interest of judicial economy, we make that determination. See *Ex parte Saceman*, 27 USPQ2d 1472, 1474 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1993); *Ex parte Ionescu*, 222 USPQ 537, 540 (Bd. App. 1984).

⁶ The examiner does not rely upon Van Der Scheer for any disclosure that remedies the deficiency in Doan and Ghezzi as to claim 60.

The ordinary meaning of "coextensive" is "[h]aving the same limits, boundaries, or scope."⁷ The appellants' figure 1 is consistent with this meaning with respect to lead 26 and insulating region 14, i.e., it shows them as having essentially the same lateral dimension.

The examiner argues that Ghezzi discloses "providing a generally conductive element (5) over a generally insulative material (21), wherein the element is generally laterally coextensive with the intervening insulating region" (answer, page 9).⁸ As shown in Ghezzi's figure 3, however, floating gate 5 extends far beyond gate oxide 21. Thus, based upon any reasonable interpretation of "generally laterally coextensive" in view of the appellants' figure 1, these layers are not generally laterally coextensive. The examiner argues that "the Appellant has not explained why the generally conductive layer is not allowed to extend over another feature of a structure while still

⁷ Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary 278 (Riverside 1984).

⁸ The examiner also argues that "[t]he issue is whether the generally conductive layer (22) is generally laterally coextensive with the generally insulating region (21) in figure 3 of Ghezzi" (answer, page 24). Ghezzi's item 22 is not identified, but it appears to be comparable to item 24 (figure 3), i.e., an area of floating gate 5.

Appeal No. 2003-2155
Application 09/654,093

being generally laterally coextensive with the generally insulating region" (answer, page 24). The reason is that if the conductive layer extends over another feature, it is not generally laterally coextensive with the insulating region according to any reasonable meaning of "generally laterally coextensive" indicated by the appellants' figure 1.

Accordingly, we reverse the rejections of claims 60-64 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

OTHER ISSUE

In the event of further prosecution the examiner should consider rejecting claims 61-64 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the appellants regard as the invention. Claims 61-64 include the subject matter of claim 60 from which they directly or indirectly depend. As discussed above regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, "generally insulative material" and "generally conductive element" in claim 60 are indefinite. Claims 61-64 do not remedy the lack of clarity of these terms in claim 60. Consequently, claims 61-64 are indefinite.

Appeal No. 2003-2155
Application 09/654,093

DECISION

The rejection of claim 60 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of claim 52 over Doan in view of Boland, claims 53-57 over Doan in view of Cunningham, and claims 58 and 59 over Doan in view of Cunningham and Ying, are affirmed. The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of claims 60, 61, 63 and 64 over Doan in view of Ghezzi, and claim 62 over Doan in view of Ghezzi and Van Der Scheer, are reversed.

No time period for taking any subsequent action in connection with this appeal may be extended under 37 CFR § 1.136(a).

AFFIRMED-IN-PART

Terry J. Owens
TERRY J. OWENS
Administrative Patent Judge

THOMAS A. WALTZ
Administrative Patent Judge


PAUL LIEBERMAN
Administrative Patent Judge

BOARD OF PATENT
APPEALS AND
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Application 09/654,093

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